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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/372,667	08/11/1999	MARK LEE AHRENS	10990502-1	1716

22878 7590 02/04/2003

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EXAMINER

JONES, HUGH M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2123

DATE MAILED: 02/04/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/372,667

Applicant(s)
Ahrens et al.

Examiner
Hugh Jones

Art Unit
2123



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jan 21, 2003
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-8, 10, 11, and 13-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-8, 10, 11, and 13-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1, 3-8, 10-11, 13-15 of U. S. Application 09/372,667, filed 08/11/1999 are presented for examination.

Claim Interpretation

2. The claims have been provided the broadest, most reasonable interpretation.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

4. **Claims 1, 3-8, 10-11, 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Kamieniecki et al..**
5. Kamieniecki et al. disclose an automated signal generator apparatus which allows *testing of remotely-controlled electronic devices* to verify functionality and reliability, or for product set-up, initialization or configuration. The apparatus simulates a person pressing the keys on a remote control key pad, and can simulate key press sequences, key press duration, and time between key presses. Other human interfaces may also be simulated. The apparatus can be

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continuously driven by an external computer in a slaved mode, or can store test instructions in an internal memory to operate in a standalone mode. Test instructions, which may be written in a macro script language, are processed by a microprocessor to provide a control signal to, e.g., an infrared (IR) transmitter. The IR transmitter can control one or more electronic devices which are under test. The transmitter may use a wide angle IR beam, or a plurality of separate transmitters for testing of a plurality of electronic devices at the same time. In a human learning mode, control signals from a human interface are processed to provide time compression or repetition of a fixed control sequence.

6. In particular, Kamieniecki et al. disclose:

- connecting the DUT to a testing device (fig. 1; col. 2, lines 20-28; col. 3, lines 28-35; col. 4, lines 7-63; col. 5, line 47 to col. 6, line 62; col. 7, lines 16-40; col. 9, line 54 to col. 10, line 13);
- connecting a remote controlling device to the testing device (fig. 1; col. 2, lines 20-28; col. 3, lines 28-35; col. 4, lines 7-63; col. 5, line 47 to col. 6, line 62; col. 7, lines 16-40; col. 9, line 54 to col. 10, line 13);
- connecting a communications line (fig. 1 [# 125, 170]; col. 2, lines 20-28; col. 3, lines 28-35; col. 4, lines 7-63; col. 5, line 47 to col. 6, line 62; col. 7, lines 16-40; col. 9, line 54 to col. 10, line 13);
- using a video camera (col. 7, lines 27-40);

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- establishing a communications link between remote controller and remote controlling device (fig. 1; col. 2, lines 20-28; col. 3, lines 28-35; col. 4, lines 7-63; col. 5, line 47 to col. 6, line 62; col. 7, lines 16-40; col. 9, line 54 to col. 10, line 13);

- transmitting DUT data to remote controller (fig. 1 [# 180]; col. 2, lines 20-28; col. 3, lines 28-35; col. 4, lines 7-63; col. 5, line 47 to col. 6, line 62; col. 7, lines 16-40; col. 9, line 54 to col. 10, line 13);

- controlling testing device using input from remote controller (fig. 1; col. 2, lines 20-28; col. 3, lines 28-35; col. 4, lines 7-63; col. 5, line 47 to col. 6, line 62; col. 7, lines 16-40; col. 9, line 54 to col. 10, line 13);

- initializing, establishing and transmitting data/attribute of DUT (fig. 1; col. 2, lines 20-28; col. 3, lines 28-35; col. 4, lines 7-63; col. 5, line 47 to col. 6, line 62; col. 7, lines 16-40; col. 9, line 54 to col. 10, line 13);

- forwarding instructions to remote controller and forwarding to testing device (fig. 1 [# 180]; col. 2, lines 20-28; col. 3, lines 28-35; col. 4, lines 7-63; col. 5, line 47 to col. 6, line 62; col. 7, lines 16-40; col. 9, line 54 to col. 10, line 13);

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are

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such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1, 3-8, 10-11, 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Chandler et al. in view of the taking of Official Notice.

9. Chandler et al. disclose an automatic circuit board tester for testing for shorts, opens, and interconnected pins or nodes on a circuit board. The tester first classifies the nodes as being in one of three categories based upon the design of the board and the intended interconnection of the nodes. The categories of nodes are: (1) connected to ground; (2) interconnected to all other nodes in the test group; or (3) isolated from all other nodes. The circuit board tester has a testhead containing a plurality of test channels, each configured to be coupled to a node on the circuit board. The testhead utilizes a digital signal from a digital driver to drive the node at a predetermined voltage and a digital receiver to read the node voltage to determine if it is coupled to ground. Each test channel also includes a switch to connect the digital driver and receiver to the test node as well as a ground switch to selectively couple the node to ground. Various combinations of switch positions and testing sequences enables the circuit board tester to test all node connections and to ensure that the physical embodiment of the circuit board accurately reflects the circuit board design.

10. In particular, Chandler et al. discloses:

- connecting the DUT to a testing device (fig. 1-2; col. 3, line 21 to col. 4, line 24);

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- connecting a remote controlling device to the testing device (fig. 1-2; col. 3, line 21 to col. 4, line 24);

- connecting a communications line (fig. 1-2; col. 3, line 21 to col. 4, line 24);

- establishing a communications link between remote controller and remote controlling device (fig. 1-2; col. 3, line 21 to col. 4, line 24);

- transmitting DUT data to remote controller (fig. 1-2; col. 3, line 21 to col. 4, line 24);

- controlling testing device using input from remote controller (fig. 1-2; col. 3, line 21 to col. 4, line 24);

- initializing, establishing and transmitting data/attribute of DUT (fig. 1-2; col. 3, line 21 to col. 4, line 24);

- forwarding instructions to remote controller and forwarding to testing device (fig. 1-2; col. 3, line 21 to col. 4, line 24);

11. Chandler et al. do not disclose use of "video cameras"

12. Official Notice is taken that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to employ video cameras during remote testing of DUTs because this provides other sources of information to the user which would not be as apparent from, for example, only electrical signals. For example, during testing of semiconductor DUTs, a video signal could show smoke, indicating overheating of the DUT.

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Response to Arguments

13. Applicant's arguments filed 11/25/2002 and 1/21/2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

14. Applicants are thanked for indicating support (page 2, paper # 10) for their claim amendments.

102 rejections

15. The Examiner notes Applicant's arguments pertaining to the 102 prior art rejections. Applicants recite numerous court decisions, followed by a recitation of the prior art rejection 8-10), followed by a recitation of Applicant's interpretation of the invention. Applicants argue that (pp. 10-11, paper # 5) that:

“Applicants respectfully submit that at least the feature of transmitting model information obtained by a video camera to a remote controller is neither disclosed, taught, nor suggested by *Kamieniecki et al.*”

16. Applicants appeared to be implying or suggesting that the model information obtained by the camera (because the camera records the part number, for example) is somehow used. It is noted that the claims do not recite any connection between *establishing the model* or *transmitting the model* to the *video camera*. The claims, as recited only recite that a camera is directed on the DUT while the DUT is being controlled via a communications link. That the camera obtains the model information is incidental in so far as the model information *obtained by the camera* is not used, at least in the claims, *as recited*. Furthermore, Applicant's arguments (pg. 10, paper # 5)

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also refer to other unclaimed features including the fact that a technician views the video signal and performs some unclaimed task and the tool kit "30", to name a few examples. In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., the feature of transmitting model information obtained by a video camera to a remote controller, the technician's tasks, and tool kit, to name a few examples) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). Applicants have not responded to this Examiner's response (paper # 6) to Applicant's earlier arguments (pp. 11-16, paper # 5).

17. Applicants *again* argue unclaimed features, including "call centers" and "technicians" (pp. 8-9, papers # 7, 10). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

18. The Examiner maintains the rejections and would also like to point out that a reference anticipates a claim if it discloses the claimed invention such that a skilled artisan could take its teachings combination with his own knowledge of the particular art and be in possession of the invention. *In re Graves*, 36 USPQ2d 1697 (Fed. Cir. 1995); *In re Sasse*, 207 USPQ 107 (CCPA 1980); *In re Samour*, 197 USPQ 1 (CCPA 1978). Applicants have not responded to this Examiner's response (paper # 6) to Applicant's earlier arguments (pp. 11-16, paper # 5).

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19. In any event, and in response to applicant's arguments relating to "call centers" and "tecnicians", a recitation (*it has not been yet been recited - rather used in arguments alleging patentability*) of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim. In a claim drawn to a process of making, the intended use must result in a manipulative difference as compared to the prior art. See *In re Casey*, 152 USPQ 235 (CCPA 1967) and *In re Otto*, 136 USPQ 458, 459 (CCPA 1963).

103 rejections

20. In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually (pp. 11-16, paper # 5; paper # 10), one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

21. In response to Applicant's argument that Chandler does not provide the motivation to combine the teachings (pp. 14-16, paper # 5; paper # 10), please note section 2144 of the MPEP, recited for Applicant's convenience:

"2144 Sources of Rationale Supportinga Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103 ***RATIONALE MAY BE IN A REFERENCE, OR REASONED FROM COMMON KNOWLEDGE IN THE ART, SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLES, ART-RECOGNIZED EQUIVALENTS, OR LEGAL PRECEDENT***
The rationale to modify or combine the prior art does not have to be expressly stated in the prior

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art; the rationale may be expressly or impliedly contained in the prior art or it may be reasoned from knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, established scientific principles, or legal precedent established by prior case law. In re Fine, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988); In re Jones, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). See also In re Kotzab, 217 F.3d 1365, 1370, 55 USPQ2d 1313, 1317 (Fed. Cir. 2000) (setting forth test for implicit teachings); In re Eli Lilly & Co., 902 F.2d 943, 14 USPQ2d 1741 (Fed. Cir. 1990) (discussion of reliance on legal precedent); In re Nilssen, 851 F.2d 1401, 1403, 7 USPQ2d 1500, 1502 (Fed. Cir. 1988) (references do not have to explicitly suggest combining teachings); Ex parte Clapp, 227 USPQ 972 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1985) (examiner must present convincing line of reasoning supporting rejection); and Ex parte Levengood, 28 USPQ2d 1300 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1993) (reliance on logic and sound scientific reasoning)."

Applicants have not responded to this Examiner's response (paper # 6) to Applicant's earlier arguments (pp. 11-16, paper # 5).

22. Applicants also applied abstract and conclusory arguments (pp. 11-16, paper # 5) in so far as Applicants stated that they disagreed with the taking of Official Notice without explaining their reasoning other than to misapply legal citations relating to motivation to combine. Official Notice was taken that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to employ video cameras during remote testing of DUTs because this provides other sources of information to the user which would not be as apparent from, for example, only electrical signals. For example, during testing of semiconductor DUTs, a video signal could show smoke, indicating overheating of the DUT. Applicants *still* have not actually addressed the merits

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of this argument. Applicants have not responded to this Examiner's response (paper # 6) to Applicant's earlier arguments (pp. 11-16, paper # 5).

Conclusion

23. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be:

directed to:

Dr. Hugh Jones telephone number (703) 305-0023, Monday-Thursday 0830 to 0700 ET, *or* the examiner's supervisor, Kevin Teska, telephone number (703) 305-9704. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist, telephone number (703) 305-3900.


mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 308-9051 (for formal communications intended for entry)
or (703) 308-1396 (for informal or draft communications, please label "*PROPOSED*" or "*DRAFT*").

Dr. Hugh Jones
Primary Patent Examiner
April 20, 2002


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